

pared according to the truest scientific laws. Originally selected because of taste, temperament, physical and mental aptitude, she receives not only the finest instruction that the best professors can impart, but a practical hospital training that qualifies her to handle intelligently and tactfully the great variety of cases committed to her care. Sometimes one proves a failure, but she is weeded out or dropped by a subtle law of natural selection. Those who stand all the required tests and independently take up their chosen life profession are some of the noblest specimens of consecrated skilled womanhood that God ever gave to bless the human race. Neat and attractive in appearance and manner, firm yet gentle, they take hold of their work from their first appearance in the sickroom in a manner that inspires the most absolute confidence on the part of the patient. If he be a man, with a man's natural shrinking from being cared for so entirely by a woman and a stranger, it all disappears in the absolute restfulness of having everything done so perfectly. The quiet modesty and sweet womanliness of her behavior bring a sense of perfect contentment most favorable to recovery. Should any sudden change for the worse occur, she gives no evidence of the fact, but promptly uses those remedies which she always has at hand for such emergencies. She is never taken by surprise, never loses her presence of mind; says little, but that little always cheerfully and encouragingly. Her vigilance is seemingly constant, her resources unfailing. She never asks you what you want, but manages to bring just the right thing at the right time. She is a treasure whose value has no mere pecuniary compensation. She is a benediction. And yet some of us were utterly ignorant of her existence until some unlooked-for sickness placed us at her mercy. Have we described an impossible ideal? Nay, only quietly pictured a beautiful reality, for which no words of gratitude can ever convey an adequate expression.—REV. WILLIAM BRYANT in the *Michigan Presbyterian*.

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THE QUACK NURSING PRESS.—Reprinted from the *British Journal of Nursing* of September 16:

“*To the Editor of the British Journal of Nursing.*”

“DEAR MADAM: As a retired matron, with plenty of time on hand, I have during the past year spent much time in studying the nursing press, and I have been immensely impressed with the fact that all the journals for nurses controlled and, in the majority of instances, edited by themselves are wonderfully staunch to the progressive party and most harmonious in tone, whereas every so-called nursing paper—founded as a commercial speculation and edited by lay persons—is

evidently opposed to coöperation among nurses on a sound, self-governing basis, and most timorous in handling nursing politics. For instance, in England we have the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*, *The Nurses' Journal*, the *Queen's Nurses' Magazine*, and the organs of the following leagues: Bart's, Southampton, Leicester, Chelsea, Parish of Nottingham, Kingston Infirmary, and St. John's House, all edited by trained nurses, all solid for higher education and State registration of nurses. On the other hand, we have the organs of Sir Henry Burdett, Messrs. Macmillan, and the Midwives' Institute, with non-professional control, all either bitterly opposed to self-government for nurses, or oblivious to their best interests, by omitting to support their just professional aspirations, and two of these journals actually gave what little influence they possess to Sir Henry Burdett's scheme for the subjugation of the nursing profession on what he called the 'Rothschild platform,' but to which unscrupulous transaction the Editor of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* gives its right name of 'a plot,' in referring to his recent 'attempt to create an arbitrary body of control for the nursing profession under the ægis of the Board of Trade'—a 'strange proceeding, which was carried on absolutely without the knowledge of the organized nurses of Great Britain, in such secrecy that it might almost be said to have resembled a plot.'

"In America we see the same result. All the journals edited by nurses are staunch to the best interests of nurses, those which are in the hands of non-professional persons quite the reverse. Surely, common-sense and a sense of self-preservation teaches us a sound lesson in these uncontrovertible facts. Why should we make money for Sir Henry Burdett and his emulators in quack nursing journalism? Personally it appears to me a most suicidal policy. The medical profession might as well spend its money and influence in helping publishers and newspapers proprietors to run papers for medical men in opposition to their professionally staffed press, and thus create a quack medical press, to oppose their best interests upon every possible occasion. This matter of the quack nursing press might very well receive some notice from the Matrons' Council. Why should it not be discussed at one of our conference meetings; the discussion would be lively, especially if Sir Henry Burdett and Messrs. Macmillan were invited to reply.

"Yours truly,

"A MEMBER OF THE MATRONS' COUNCIL.

"[We think this an excellent suggestion. A stirring discussion would certainly be insured, to say nothing of 'wigs on the Green.'—*Ed. British Journal of Nursing.*]"

THE "THREE R'S" VS. FADS AND FRILLS.—Concluding his articles in the *The Delinicator* on the public schools, Dr. Maxwell, Superintendent of Schools, New York City, has these interesting remarks:

"The public schools are doing what they can to enable the children to become better home-makers and greater home-lovers, to be stronger in body and more ready in application of mind to problems both of the hand and head, and to discover in themselves new aptitudes and gain new modes of self-expression without which, for want of verbal skill, they would be forever dumb. On the other hand, 'book-learning' is not neglected, and as much time is given to the so-called 'essential' branches as the child can utilize with profit. Moreover, this instruction in English, arithmetic, geography, and history, and, in certain of the upper-grade schools, in German or French, is so interspersed with manual and physical training that the child does not suffer from the strain of attention too long continued in one direction. To these so-called essentials by far the greater part of the school day is devoted. In no class is less than 69.5 per cent. given to regular studies, while in five years of the course from 80.8 to 83.5 per cent. is allotted in this way. In the other two years 77.1 and 78.2 are the percentages. In the remaining percentages of the school-week, from 16.5 to 30.5, is done all the work in the special branches and physical training. The use of books and reading receive their due attention through text-books or through the class libraries, which in six months reported a circulation of two million six hundred and eighty-eight thousand four hundred and sixty-nine from their shelf list of four hundred and fifty thousand two hundred and fifty-two volumes. On the other hand, manual and physical training also receive attention in the vacation schools and playgrounds, which, using millions of dollars' worth of city property which otherwise would be wastefully idle, last summer brought happiness to an aggregate attendance of nearly four million.

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A BROADENING OF WORK.—The Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago has supplied a nurse to direct the work of caring for sick babies at the fresh-air station located on the grounds of the Northwestern University Settlement, which is located in a very congested section of the city. Babies have been cared for and the mothers taught how to properly bathe and feed their children.

The visiting nurses have also had charge of the tuberculosis camp at Glencoe, established by the Gads Hill Settlement and turned over to Miss Fulmer to manage. Miss Fulmer gives an interesting account of the summer's work in *Co-Operation* for September 30.